(b) Import of coal is under Open General Licence (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal. During the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, various consumers including consumers from power sector have imported coal from Australia, Indonesia etc. to the tune of 49.79 million tonnes and 59.00 million tonnes respectively.

(c) Information is not available with this Ministry.

Irregularities in coal mines of WCL

1846. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a large scale of bullying and irregularities take place in the contract to be given in the coal mines of Western Coalfields Limited;

(b) whether such irregularities have been brought to Government's notice by the officers concerned and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the private players who have been given the contract of coal during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As informed by Coal India Limited, no complaint of large scale bullying and irregularities has been received in the Vigilance Department of Western Coalfields Limited.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CCI's awareness campaign on procurement process

1847. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has observed that many Government departments and public sector companies are losing thousands of crores of public money while procuring goods due to faulty bidding system;

(b) whether CCI has launched an awareness campaign on the Competition Law among the Government agencies like NHAI, CPWD, AIIMS and BSNL to ensure better transparency in the procurement process; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to review and revive the procurement system in consultation with CCI and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Competition Commission of India (CCI) has launched an awareness campaign as part of its advocacy efforts under Section 49(3) of the Competition Act, 2002, to create awareness about the competition issues to all stakeholders including Government Departments and Public Sector Companies.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Investor Education and Protection Fund

1848. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of misleading the investors, while raising money by the promoters of companies, have increased over a period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of complaints/cases reported to Government during 2008-09 and 2009-10, so far;

(d) the details of the companies against whom Government has taken action;

(e) whether Government has set up an Investor Education and Protection Fund in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the objectives for setting up of such fund?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (d) Based on information provided by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) there have been 3 public issues of Debt Securities under the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities) Regulations 2008 in the period 2008-09 (one) and 2009-10 (two) till date. No complaints of misleading investors have been received in connection with these issues. The details of public/rights issues where complaints were received alleging misleading disclosures in the draft offer document in respect of issues and the action taken by SEBI during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) has been set-up under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 by way of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999. As per the Act, the following amounts, which have remained unclaimed and unpaid for a period of seven years from the date they became due for payment, shall be credited to the IEPF:

a. Unpaid dividend accounts of the companies;

b. The application moneys received and due for refund;

c. Matured deposits;

d. Matured debentures;

e. The interest accrued in the amounts referred to (a) to (d) above;

f. Grants and donations by the Central Government State Government, companies or any other institutions;

g. The interest or other income received out of the investments made from the Fund.